

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

JULY 2001 COMMISSION MEETING

LOS ANGELES, CA

July 19, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

Approval of June Minutes

Minutes from the June 21, 2001 Commission meeting were approved. These minutes have been posted on the State Commission's website (www.ccfc.ca.gov), under "Commission Meetings."

CCFC Budget

The Commission approved a CCFC budget process that will be used to determine and develop the Commission's priorities for future investments. Approval of \$200 million for four years, as well as some related school readiness activities, was provided for investment in the School Readiness Initiative. It was determined that priorities beyond those associated with the Commission's vision of children being ready for school would not be further developed at this time, in order to focus staff resources on the implementation of the School Readiness Initiative and related efforts and priority areas, including the School Readiness Master Plan, the Advisory Committee on Diversity, and other existing projects that the Commission has underway. Between now and Spring 2002, projects will only be brought forward to the Commission if they are needed to implement the School Readiness Initiative, or to address emerging issues.

To assist and inform the determination of priority areas and potential future direction, the Commission will await and rely on the results of a number of products it has invested in. These include, among other things, the recommendation from a research project on children with disabilities and other special needs, the results of a public opinion and policy maker poll on child care, the recommendations of the School Readiness Master Plan workgroup, and recommendations regarding specific geographic areas in California, especially the Central Valley. Additionally, the Commission will convene meetings of interested partners, experts, and others to explore the development of strategy papers describing possible activities for Commission funding. These strategy papers could provide the framework for the solicitation of proposals in the areas of children's health, training programs for formal and informal caregivers, prenatal care and research projects, all in the context of School Readiness.

The Commission will send a letter to agencies that submitted proposals for funding to inform them of the Commission's plan to suspend further investments until Spring 2002. It is anticipated that final recommendations for priority areas of Commission investment will be brought to the Commission for approval in May 2002.

School Readiness Initiative Allocation and Application Process

The Commission approved the allocation of \$200 million over the next four years to support the School Readiness Initiative, and authorized the release of the School Readiness Request for Funds (RFF) to County Commissions, including the selection criteria for School Readiness Programs. The policies and processes included in the RFF were developed by the School Readiness Planning Group, which included representatives from County Commissions, the Advisory Committee on Diversity, CCFC staff, and other partners. The following information provides highlights of the policies and processes approved:

Funding:

- County Commissions will receive a potential allocation of CCFC funds for four years based on a formula that blends county birth rates with the number of students in schools in API deciles 1-3 (Academic Performance Index) that is available when quality and fiscal requirements are met as demonstrated in the application process. The minimum allocation will be \$100,000, and only counties with eligible schools currently are participating in the initial efforts.
- County Commissions and local partners need to provide a 1:1 match that may be from a variety of sources as long as it is a cash commitment. As an incentive to start this year, a lesser match requirement of 1 (county): 2 (CCFC) is available until July 1, 2002.
- County Commissions may receive between \$25,000 and \$100,000 annually for implementation grants that do not require local matching funds.
- Target communities served by schools with API in deciles 1-3 are located in 45 counties and represent approximately 1400 schools and 800,000 students of whom 85% are low income, 48% are English language learners, and 75% are Latino.
- Funds will be available to County Commissions with targeted school communities that can participate in current and future applications over the next two years. This phase process enables County Commissions and partners to assess the 'readiness' of potential School Readiness Programs in targeted communities and apply for CCFC funding when most appropriate.

Principles:

- School based or linked
- Builds on and coordinates family and community assets, existing services, and infrastructure
- Family focus, decision-making, and voluntary participation
- Inclusive and culturally competent
- Addresses needs of children with disabilities and other special needs
- Collaboration with community investment and design

- Plan with connected assessment, prioritized goals, strategies, partners and evaluation (based on disaggregated data)
- Based on standards, research, and promising practices, all adapted to address the languages and cultures of Californians
- Comprehensive training
- Results based accountability and strong evaluation component
- Systems integration and redesign

Program:

5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements” (based on National Education Goals Panel definition of ‘school readiness’):

- Early Care and Education
- Parenting/Family Support
- Health and Social Services
- Schools’ Readiness for Children
- Site Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration

There needs to be a partner for each of the 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements.” Families, schools, and early care and education agencies are required partners. The evaluation process will include all 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements” and will be developed through a Request for Proposal that includes input from County Commissions, the Advisory Committee on Diversity, and additional partners.

The RFF application will ask for a description of local partners and collaborative decision-making process; assessed strengths and needs of children, families, schools, and communities; expected results; current and new strategies and partners for the 5 ‘Essential and Coordinated elements’ plus coordination processes; staffing and professional development plans; CCFC and local matching funds budget; and other information.

The Review Criteria will be included in the RFF and provide criteria for: 1) county self-assessment to determine when community School Readiness Programs are ready to apply for funding, and for county-level review and selection; and 2) state-level review and selection.

RFF ‘Launch’ Timeline:

Phase 1:	RFF released August 2001 Applications due October 15 to start by the end of November, 2001 Applications due December 15 to start in February, 2002
Phase 2 and future:	County Commission ‘intent to participate’ in December 2001 with total funding request estimate due by July 2001 RFF released December 2001 Applications due May 15 to start in July 2002; then quarterly application process until June 2003

School Readiness Initiative/Technical Assistance

The Commission approved funding for one year of up to \$1 million to implement a technical assistance delivery system for Proposition 10 county commissions under the administration of the California Children and Families Commission. The approved funds will provide technical assistance initially to Proposition 10 counties funding Phase 1 School Readiness Centers/Programs, and ultimately to remaining counties as well. Staff, working in collaboration with representatives from the California Children and Families Association and other partners, will develop a system that will be in place when Phase 1 sites become operational, and focus in subsequent months upon the remaining School Readiness Centers/Programs and other Proposition 10 counties. Staff will update the

Commission at its September 2001 meeting regarding the progress made in designing a TA delivery system, and the cost implications.

Safe from the Start

The State Commission approved \$1.3 million in total costs for a contract with the Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General for the expansion of the Safe from the Start project for the period of August 1, 2001 – June 30, 2004.

The project is designed to reduce the number of children exposed to violence and to improve the service delivery system for those children who have been victimized.

The major emphasis of the expanded project is ongoing training and technical assistance to county teams including:

- ❑ Develop a Promising Strategies Program and Evaluation Guidebook coupled with a video highlighting strategies in action
- ❑ Coordinate visits to model promising practices sites
- ❑ Recruit, train and support violence prevention volunteers in all counties modeled after the School/Law Enforcement Cadre
- ❑ Enhance the SFTS website
- ❑ Conduct a follow-up one-day conference to promote promising practices, sustainability, creative funding opportunities

Legislation

The Commission adopted "support" positions on the following bills:

AB 636 (Steinberg), which would enact the Child Welfare Services Improvement and Accountability Act, under which county welfare agencies responsible for children in

foster care would be reviewed for their compliance with state and federal requirements based on child and family outcomes and results, rather than inputs and processes..

AB 1119 (Hertzberg), which would create an Internet-based Health and Education Passport System for children in foster care.

AB 1330 (Steinberg), which would increase foster care provider reimbursement rates by five percent.

SB 1038 (Polanco), which would enact the California Healthy Families Vaccine Purchase Act, a volume purchase program in which immunizations would be purchased by the Healthy Families Program and then distributed to participating providers

Advisory Committee on Diversity – Vision Statement, Equity Principles and Diversity Glossary

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the Equity Principles, Diversity Glossary and Vision Statement presented by their Advisory Committee on Diversity. (These documents are posted on the Commission’s website under “State Commission”.) A few suggestions/revisions were offered by the Commissioners. The revised documents will be presented for formal adoption during the September 2001 Commission meeting.